

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AGR-20 EB-11 SSO-00 SPC-03 AID-20

NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01

CEA-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DRC-01 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1689

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 5176

PASS AGRICULTURE FOR HUME

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, CI, AS

SUBJ: GOC CONTRACT WITH AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BOARD

REF: STATE 184997

1. GENERAL MANAGER ECA BOSCH VISITED AUSTRALIA AND NEGOTIATED CONTRACT WITH AWB FOR 250,000 METRIC TONS OF WHEAT FOR CASH WITH SHIPMENT JANUARY/APRIL 1974. UNDER CONTRACT BOARD WILL ENDEAVOUR BRING DELIVERY FORWARD FOR ONE OR TWO CARVFIS SECOND HALF DECEMBER IF HARVEST PERMITTED. BOSCH WANTED 500,000 TONS OR MORE FOR SHIPMENT UP TO JUNE, BUT BOARD NOT PREPARED TO MAKE ADDITIONAL 250,000 TON COMMITMENT UNTIL OCTOBER PENDING HARVEST OUTTURN. WOULD NEGOTIATE FURTHER AT THAT TIME. FOLLOWING NEGOTIATION OF CONTRACT BOSCH VISITED DOT MINISTER CAIRNS IN CANBERRA AND ASKED GOA TO ARRANGE CREDIT TO COVER CONTRACT. CAIRNS PROMISED TO LOOK INTO POSSIBILITY AND UNDERTOOK TO DISCUSS WITH CABINET WHAT COULD BE DONE.

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2. A) CONTRACT VALID UNTIL APRIL 30, 1974, COVERING QUANTITY

OF 250,000 METRIC TONS, F.A.Q. QUALITY WITH AWB OPTION TO
SUBSTITUTE PROPORTION HARD WHEAT IF AVAILABLE. TERMS CASH.
PRICE NOT ASCERTAINED BUT ACCORDING AWB AT MARKET PRICE
RULING AT THAT TIME (JULY). JAN/APRIL SHIPMENT.

B) AWB REGARDS CASH CONTRACT AS STILL VALID. IN VIEW HOWEVER,
OF PAST GOC DESIRE TO ARRANGE GOA FINANCING FINAL OUTCOME
UNCERTAIN. UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES GOA MAY DEFER DECIS-
ION ON BOSCH REQUEST FOR CREDIT UNTIL POSITION CLARIFIED.

AS OF 9/18/73 DFA STATED NO DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN ON CREDIT
REQUEST. ON OTHER HAND GOC MAY WISH TO PROCEED ON CASH
BASIS IF IN POSITION TO DO SO.

C) PRESENT SHIPPING SCHEDULE JAN/APRIL BUT AWB UNDERTOOK
TO ACCELERATE SHIPMENT OF ONE OR TWO CARGOES SECOND HALF
DECEMBER IF FEASIBLE. AWB UNABLE TO MAKE EARLIER SHIPMENTS
AND NOT IN POSITION TO BORROW FROM OTHER COMMITMENTS TO PROVIDE
EMERGENCY SUPPLIES.

3. GOA HAS REPORTEDLY ADOPTED WAIT AND SEE ATTITUDE TO COUP,
BUT TONE OF PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS TO
AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO RETURN TO CANBERRA FOR CONSULTATIONS
INDICATE POSSIBILITY OF LESS SYMPATHETIC STANCE TOWARD NEW
GOC. IN ADDITION, AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BOARD ITSELF CONCERNED
ABOUT OUTSTANDING DEBTS OF PREVIOUS CREDIT SALES TOTALLING
ABOUT 10 TO 11 MILLION AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS.
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